become somewhat violent, the women recall these flaws, to the great shame of the person who suffers from them. The same is true of the weakness of some of the men which, like an excess of sexual activity, can cause difficulties in a household.

2. Rape

Rape in the true sense of the word -- that is, the abuse of a woman by the use of violence -- is most unusual among the Nkundó. If a woman does not consent, the angry seducer leaves her, often insulting her to the best of his ability. I know of only one case of rape, which occurred some time ago and caused much consternation in the region. Bankɔngɛ, the daughter of Iloino [94] is Lifekele of Lofelf (Bongili), was at that time living with her mother's clan the Bonyeka (Bonkoso). She had not yet fully attained physical maturity (her breasts were still very small). One day she went into the forest and did not return in the evening. The family was alarmed, and her father and her uncle Mpɛnda Ea Nkɔtɔnkale went to look for her. Finding traces of fresh blood, they followed them till they found Bankɔngɛ's corpse buried in the mounds. She had died of hemorrhage; her sex organs, torn, showed the unmistakable signs of rape. People had their suspicions, but it has never been possible to prove the identity of the criminal. If there had been proof, he would not have escaped the mortal vengeance of the unfortunate victim's parents.

All the data I have been able to collect indicates that other instances must undoubtedly have occurred.

3. Incomplete acts

Here we are speaking of what moralists call actus impudicitiae, that is, acts whose nature physically leads to sexual pleasure.

Obscene bodily contacts between persons of opposite sex are preparatory acts which excite; even touching the breasts, the abdomen, and taking a person by the arms are included in this category.

§3[with the opposite sex for a long time, such as internment camps, prisons, etc.

2 Female homosexuality

Nkundó girls play at "husband and wife," and even adult married women engage in this vice. According [96] to my informants the causes are the following: first, an intense and very intimate love between two women, and second, and above all, the fact that wives of polygamists find it difficult to satisfy their passions in a natural way. Often they engage in this practice with co-wives of the same man. The greater liberty introduced through colonization could reduce its frequency, but up till now no great improvement has been observed. What is more, in establishments where girls are too severely kept away from the opposite sex, there has been an increase.

The verb used to designate these depraved acts is yamɔma, "to each other, one against the other." The noun bomɔmo is derived from it. But these words are also used to designate a simple embrace. A more specific term is yafiya bondingo; the verb yafiya (simple form: fiya) means "to press against each other."

Is there any need to say that a people like the Nkundó, whose beliefs are founded on nature, see nothing the least bit wrong with this vice? Consequently it would be desirable for educators and missionaries to draw their pupils' attention to the harm present in such practices.

3. Masturbation

• §39 This vice seems never to have been practiced by the Nkundó, but at the present time it is known in the large centers and in the camps; from there it gradually penetrates into the interior. Yet it seems to spread with difficulty in native society. It is understandable that a man who has acquired the habit in one of the centers does not rid himself of it without great effort; but as the natives do not have the will to corrupt others, he does not become an agent of its propagation. (1) [97]

1. In spite of frequent touching due to itching.